

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 07235 281403Z
ACTION EUR-12

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SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 NRC-05 IO-13
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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 07235

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG OECD FR
SUBJECT: FRENCH/IEA RELATIONSHIP

REF: PARIS 03041 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: AS SUGGESTED BY DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BOSWORTH, WE USED A GENERAL ENERGY POLICY DISCUSSION AT THE QUAI ON FEBRUARY 27 TO BROACH FORMULA FOR HANDLING RECENT FRENCH SUGGESTIONS RE CEP SUB-GROUP ON NORTH/SOUTH ENERGY RELATIONS. FOREIGN OFFICE CHIEF OF GENERAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS SAID BOTH THAT GOF CURRENTLY HAD NO PLANS TO PUSH AHEAD STRONGLY IN THIS AREA AND THAT FRENCH APPRECIATED U.S. CONCERNS RE DUPLICATION OF EFFORTS BY CEP AND IEA. SOURCE MAINTAINED,

HOWEVER, THAT NORTH/SOUTH ENERGY PLANNING HAD FALLEN INTO A VACUUM AFTER CIEC, AND THAT GOF WILL WANT TO CONSULT WITH US IN COMING MONTHS ON WAYS OF TREATING THIS PROBLEM. END SUMMARY.

2. ON FEBRUARY 27, MINECON AND EMBOFF DISCUSSED
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PAGE 02 PARIS 07235 281403Z

SEVERAL ENERGY POLICY MATTERS WITH QUAI GENERAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS CHIEF, PHILIPPE CUVILLIER. THE DISCUSSION PRESENTED AN OPPORTUNITY TO FOLLOW-UP ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BOSWORTH'S SUGGESTION THAT WE BROACH WITH CUVILLIER THE FORMULA PROPOSED FOR HANDLING A FRENCH SUGGESTION MADE AT THE DECEMBER 1977 OECD COMMITTEE FOR ENERGY POLICY (CEP). AT THAT TIME, GOF DELEGATE

GENERAL FOR ENERGY PAUL MENTRE PROPOSED THAT THE CEP SET UP A SUB-GROUP ON NORTH/SOUTH ENERGY RELATIONS. WHILE NOT REFERRING TO THE SUBSEQUENT MENTRE/LANTZKE CONVERSATION ON THIS SUBJECT (SEE REFTEL), MINECON STRESSED OUR CONCERN LEST SUCH A SUB-GROUP FIND ITSELF DUPLICATING THE WORK OF IEA'S BURROWS GROUP. HE EMPHASIZED OUR VIEW THAT, TO AVOID ANY DUPLICATION

OF EFFORT, THE SUB-GROUP--SHOULD ONE BE ESTABLISHED-- SHOULD MEET JOINTLY AND WORK IN COMBINATION WITH THE BURROWS GROUP, AND THAT ANY DECISIONS FLOWING FROM ITS INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS MUST BE TAKEN BY THE IEA GOVERNING BOARD AND NOT BY THE CEP.

3. IN RESPONSE, CUVILLIER REFERRED TO GOF "DISCUSSIONS WITH THE AGENCY SECRETARIAT" AND SAID FRENCH CURRENTLY HAD NO PLANS TO PUSH AHEAD STRONGLY IN THIS AREA. HE NOTED IN PASSING THAT NO CEP MEETINGS WERE SCHEDULED PRIOR TO LATE APRIL. HE ASKED US TO ASSURE DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BOSWORTH THAT HE FULLY APPRECIATED THE NATURE OF U.S. CONCERNS OVER POSSIBLE REDUNDANCY OF EFFORTS BETWEEN THE CEP AND IEA. HE NOTED, THOUGH, THE VIRTUAL ABSENCE OF ENERGY DISCUSSIONS AT THE FEBRUARY 12-17 OVERVIEW MECHANISM ORGANIZATION SESSION IN NEW YORK, AND HE UNDERLINED THE FRENCH VIEW THAT NORTH/SOUTH ENERGY RELATIONS HAD FALLEN INTO CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 PARIS 07235 281403Z

A VACUUM AFTER CIEC. THE SITUATION CAN NOT BE LEFT WHERE IT IS, HE SAID, AND ADDED THAT IN COMING MONTHS

WE WILL SURELY BE REFOCUSING OUR ATTENTION ON THE PROBLEM. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT, DURING THIS PROCESS, THE GOF WILL WANT TO CONSULT CLOSELY WITH US IN ORDER THAT WE MAY "ORGANIZE OUR THOUGHTS." GAMMON

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